

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01

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R 182204Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5779

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS LONDON 15040

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, UK, EI (NI)

SUBJECT: IRA LEADER THREATENS INCREASED VIOLENCE IN  
BRITAIN

1. TAPED INTERVIEW OF DAVID O'CONNELL, REPUTEDLY PROVISIONAL IRA CHIEF OF STAFF, WAS SHOWN ON LONDON ITV (PRIVATE NETWORK) PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM NOVEMBER 17. O'CONNELL TOLD INTERVIEWER MARY HOLLAND THAT PROVOS PLAN TO INCREASE THEIR ATTACKS IN BRITAIN, INCLUDING MILITARY, JUDICIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TARGETS. HE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL ASSASSINATION.

2. O'CONNELL SAID HMG MUST BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND BRITAIN, BUT THAT VIOLENCE WILL CEASE ONCE HMG DECLARES ITS INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM NI. HE DISCOUNTED POSSIBILITY OF CIVIL WAR IN NI IN EVENT OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL, AND ASSERTED THAT IRA WOULD BE ABLE TO PROTECT "NATIONALIST PEOPLE" (READ CATHOLIC) FROM PROTESTANT VIOLENCE MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN BRITISH MILITARY.

3. IN ADDITION TO CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH TROOPS, O'CONNELL DEMANDED THAT HMG RELEASE ALL  
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"POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN UK AND NOT ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE

CONDITIONS AS TO ACCEPTABLE GOVERNMENTAL FORMS IN NI.  
GOVERNMENTAL PROBLEM, HE SAID, COULD BE WORKED OUT BY  
"ALL SECTORS OF THE IRISH PEOPLE" IN CONFERENCE WHICH  
WOULD NOT INCLUDE HMG PARTICIPATION.

4. COMMENT: O'CONNELL'S STATEMENTS CONTAINED NOTHING  
THAT WAS NEW. EVEN THREAT OF INCREASED VIOLENCE WAS  
PRE-EMPTED BY RECENT UPSURGE IN TERRORIST BOMBINGS,  
EVIDENTLY BY PROVOS, IN NORTH AND MIDLANDS. AS YET THERE  
HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO BROADCAST, BUT INITIAL  
PLAY IN PRESS WAS LOW KEY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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